

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action, dated March 27, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 11 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,801,626, and rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,801,626 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,272,548. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 12-26 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 9.

By way of the present amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to substantially incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 6-9 (including allowable claim 9). Claims 5, 12, 19, 20 and 26 have been amended to improve form. Claims 6-11 and 27 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, for the sake of expediting prosecution. In view of these amendments to the claims, Applicants believe that only allowable subject matter, as indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action, should be pending in the claims. Allowance of the application is, therefore, respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

As Applicant's remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections overcome the rejections, Applicant's silence as to certain assertions by the Examiner in the Office Action or certain requirements that may be applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, motivation to combine references, assertions as to dependent claims, etc.) is not a concession by Applicant that such assertions are accurate or that such requirements have been met, and Applicant reserve the right to dispute these assertions/requirements in the future.

If the Examiner believes that the application is not now in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned to discuss any outstanding issues.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. BBNT-P01-015 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: June 18, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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